

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 22-35 are pending in this application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1– 21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A control system for integrating legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems with modern control devices, comprising:

at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem that generates discrete output signals;

at least one legacy controller operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals therefrom and to output control signals to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem;

an integrated signal conditioning circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and the at least one legacy controller so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween; and

a master controller operatively connected to control operation of the integrated signal conditioning circuit so as to control the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therethrough, and to control operation of the at least one legacy controller.

23. (Currently Amended) A control system according to claim 22, further comprising:

at least one I/O circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and the at least one legacy controller so as to process the output signals and control signals communicated therebetween.

24. (Currently Amended) A control system according to claim 22, wherein the integrated signal conditioning circuit is formed to, in response to the master controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem to the at least one legacy controller and pass-through or override the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem.

25. (Currently Amended) A control system according to claim 22, further comprising:

a plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems each generating discrete output signals;

a plurality of legacy controllers each operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals from and to output control signals to a corresponding one of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems; and

a plurality of an integrated signal conditioning circuits operatively connected between corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems and legacy controllers so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a system that integrates legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems with modern control devices, comprising the steps of:

generating discrete output signals from at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem;

generating control signals from at least one legacy controller in response to the output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem;

conditioning at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and at least one legacy controller; and

controlling via a master controller an operation of the at least one legacy controller and the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals.

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

processing the output signals and control signals communicated between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and the at least one legacy controller so as to convert the output signals and control signals and thereby allow communication between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and the at least one legacy controller.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 26, wherein the step of conditioning at least one of the output signals and control signals includes, in response to controlling by the master controller, at least one of monitoring or interrupting the output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem to the at least one legacy

controller and passing-through or overriding the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

generating discrete output signals from a plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems;

generating control signals from a plurality of legacy controllers in response to the output signals from corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems; and

conditioning the output signals and control signals being communicated between the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems and legacy controllers; and

controlling via the master controller operation of the plurality of legacy controllers and the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals.

30. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system that integrates legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems with modern control devices, comprising:

at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem that generates discrete sensor output signals;

at least one legacy controller operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete sensor output signals therefrom and to output control signals in response thereto;

an integrated signal conditioning circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and the at least one legacy controller so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween; and

a master controller operatively connected to control operation of the integrated signal conditioning circuit so as to control the conditioning of at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therethrough, and to control operation of the at least one legacy controller.

31. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, further comprising:
at least one I/O circuit operatively connected between the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystem and the at least one legacy controller so as to process the output signals and control signals communicated therebetween.
32. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, wherein the integrated signal conditioning circuit is formed to, in response to the master controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystems to the at least one legacy controller and pass-through or override the control signals from the at least one legacy controller to the at least one legacy ~~device~~ subsystems.
33. (Previously Presented) A mail sorting system according to claim 30, further comprising:
a plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems each generating discrete output signals;
a plurality of legacy controllers each operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals from and to output control signals to at least one corresponding one of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems; and
a plurality of an integrated signal conditioning circuits operatively connected between corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems and legacy controllers so as to condition at least one of the output signals and control signals being communicated therebetween.
34. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 33, further comprising:
A plurality of legacy mail handling ~~devices~~ subsystems, wherein the plurality of legacy ~~devices~~ subsystems that generate the discrete output signals include a plurality of sensor devices, and
the plurality of legacy controllers are each operatively ~~connected~~ coupled to receive the discrete output signals from corresponding ones of the plurality of sensor

devices and to output control signals to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy mail handling ~~devices~~ subsystems.

35. (Currently Amended) A mail sorting system according to claim 34, wherein the plurality of integrated signal conditioning circuits are each formed to, in response to the master controller, at least one of monitor or interrupt the output signals from the plurality of sensor devices to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy controllers and pass-through or override the control signals from the plurality of legacy controller to corresponding ones of the plurality of legacy mail handling ~~devices~~ subsystems.